

November 23, 2009

Obey Briefed on Wastewater Treatment Upgrades

ATHENS, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Athens today to be briefed on how the community plans to use \$1 million in federal funding obtained by Obey for wastewater treatment improvements.

“Communities can’t grow and they can’t provide decent job opportunities without strong community infrastructure such as good sewer and water systems,” said Obey. “This project will provide construction jobs and it makes a good long term investment to help Athen’s economic future. Investments like these are important because not only do they improve water quality and put people to work, but they allow communities to grow and help ease the squeeze on local ratepayers at the same time.”

The \$1 million federal investment will assist the Village of Athens with several upgrades to the village’s wastewater treatment facility. Specifically, the effort totaling about \$3.2 million, would upgrade the current wastewater plant by installing special technology to remove pollutants in the wastewater before it is discharged, enhancing treatment lagoons, and purchasing new operating equipment.

Design of the wastewater treatment facilities project began this summer. Plans, specifications, and bidding documents will be completed in anticipation of a spring 2010 bid. Construction on the project will begin in late spring/early summer next year with an anticipated completion date of mid-2011.

Athens was one of four 7th District communities to receive federal funding under the Environmental Protection Agency’s State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program. The STAG program requires a 45% match by the community. However, the Village also received a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant in August which may be used as part of the required matching funds.

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